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wherein a laser oscillating operation is performed by a first half cycle of a discharge oscillating current waveform of one pulse in which a polarity is reversed, together with at least one half cycle subsequent to the first half cycle.

REMARKS

Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-3 are pending in this application. Claim 1 is amended.

As applicants have commented in the previous argument and as it is evident from Fig. 1 and from the description in the specification, page 8, line 26 - page 9, line 9, a principal feature of the present invention is as follows:

"The laser gas is continuously excited even during at least one half cycle subsequent to the first half cycle of the oscillating current to sustain the laser oscillating operation". By this feature, it is possible to achieve a long pulse.

Regarding the sentence in the final office action, as it is evident from the column 10, lines 29-35, the pulse waveforms (I1 and I2) shown in Fig. 4 of the reference (U.S. Patent 6,188,144) are: electric charge (electric current) migrating from the capacitor Cn1 to the peaking capacitor Cp and electric charge (electric current) migrating from the capacitor Cn2 to the peaking capacitor Cp, and this is not an oscillating current flowing between the discharge electrodes.

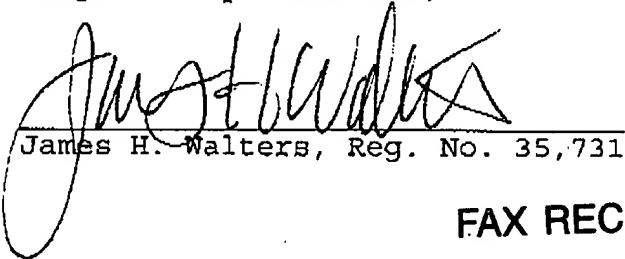
Therefore, applicants respectfully disagree with the opinion of the Examiner that the present invention is obvious from the

reference. The reference gives no description relating to the principal feature of the present invention.

In view of this, it is respectfully submitted that the application is allowable.

In light of the above noted amendments and remarks, this application is believed in condition for allowance and notice thereof is respectfully solicited. The Examiner is asked to contact applicants' attorney at 503-224-0115 if there are any questions.

Respectfully submitted,



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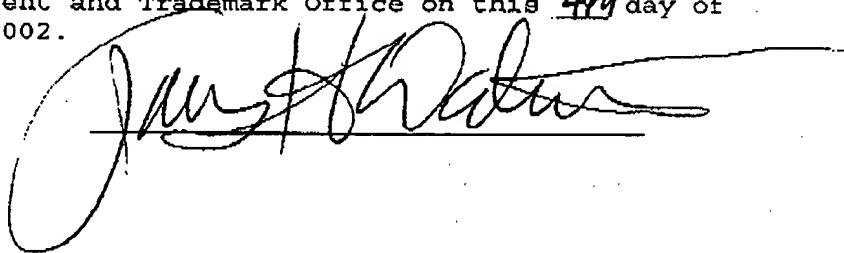
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MARKUPS

1. (Amended) A gas laser apparatus emitting ultraviolet radiation, comprising:

a laser chamber

a magnetic pulse compression circuit; and

a pair of laser discharge electrodes connected to output terminals of said magnetic pulse compression circuit and disposed in said laser chamber, adapted for a discharge oscillating current flowing between the discharge electrodes,

wherein a laser oscillating operation is performed by a first half cycle of a discharge oscillating current waveform of one pulse in which a polarity is reversed, together with at least one half cycle subsequent to the first half cycle.